

Message Text

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41

ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2465

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LOME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

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AMCONSUL KADUNA PRIORITY

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UNCLAS LAGOS 12512

PARIS ALSO FOR SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, AO, NI, SF, OAU

SUBJECT: MPLA DELEGATION BRINGS TWO CAPTURED SOUTH AFRICANS TO
LAGOS

1. ANGOLAN DELEGATION LED BY MPLA PRIME MINISTER NASCIMENTO HELD PRESS CONFERENCE IN LAGOS THIS MORNING AT WHICH TWO WHITE SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIERS IN UNIFORM WERE SHOWN TO ASSEMBLED NIGERIAN AND FOREIGN NEWSMEN. NO RPT NO NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SPOKE AT PRESS CONFERENCE ALTHOUGH EVENT CERTAINLY HAD FMG APPROVAL.

2. TWO SOLDIERS, WHO SAID THEY HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN MISTREATED, TOLD REPORTERS THAT THEY HAD BEEN CAPTURED AT SELA, SOME 700 KILOMETERS FROM NAMIBIAN BORDER INSIDE ANGOLA, ABOUT 400 KILOMETERS FROM LUANDA. THEY CLAIMED TO BE MOTOR MECHANICS WHO HAD BEEN SENT OUT TO REPAIR A TRUCK AND HAD STRAYED INTO MPLA HANDS. (NAMES CORPORAL H. TERBLANCHE AND ROBERT WIEHAND).

3. NASCIMENTO, WHO MADE STATEMENT AND ANSWERED PRESS QUESTIONS, CONDEMNED OAU FOR ITS "PASSIVITY" IN FACE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S DEEP PENETRATION INTO ANGOLA. HE ASSERTED THAT FIGHTING IN ANGOLA IS A FIGHT BETWEEN THE STATE AND REACTIONARY FORCES, THAT IT IS NOT RPT NOT TRIBAL, IDEOLOGICAL, OR REGIONAL. HE CLAIMED THAT SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS ARE SOME 1000 KILOMETERS INSIDE ANGOLA NEAR NOVO REDONDO.

4. THE MPLA OFFICIAL SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT RPT NOT PERMIT OAU TROOPS TO ENTER ANGOLA BUT THAT IT WOULD CONSIDER ACCEPTING TROOPS FROM FRIENDLY AFRICAN STATES. NASCIMENTO, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, SAID THAT MPLA WOULD ATTEND OAU SUMMIT MEETING BUT ONLY IF IT RECOGNIZED AS THE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA.

5. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, SECOND LARGEST OF NIGERIA'S DAILIES "NEW NIGERIAN", CARRIED FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL TODAY HIGHLY CRITICAL U.S. STAND ON ANGOLA. CLAIMING SOVIETS AND CUBANS ASSISTING MPLA, AND U.S. THROUGH QTE ITS AFRICAN CHATTEL LIKE ZAIRE UNCLASSIFIED

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UNQTE IS AIDING FNLA, PAPER SCORES AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN FOR HIS ALLEGED STATEMENT THAT QTE AMERICAN POLICY COINCIDES WITH SOUTH AFRICA'S ON ANGOLA. UNQTE. PAPER SAYS IT HARD TO IMAGINE A QTE MORE DAMAGING REVELATION UNQTE AND SAYS NIGERIA CANNOT STAND BY AND LET A SISTER AFRICAN COUNTRY BE DESTROYED BY A COMBINATION OF VORSTER AND MOYNIHAN. EDITORIAL CONCLUDES WITH CALL TO OAU MEMBERS RECOGNIZE MPLA AND GIVE MAXIMUM SUPPORT TO DEFEAT RACISM AND IMPERIALISM IN AFRICA.

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